

and I am looking at that, because the general disaster assistance performers tends to be targeted to the big, grow-crop places in the Middle West primarily—not exclusively—as is natural, because that's where a lot of the big dollar-volume losses have been.

So we've got to go back and look, now, and see what we're doing, because we've got not only this flooding, but also, in this part of the country we've had the biggest drought that these farmers had ever had. So most of them—not most but a large number of farmers from Maryland north, in this country, had lost their crops before the flood came. So we need to look at that, and we will now go back, obviously, down to the Carolinas, and go upward and see where we are. And I'll do my best to work with Congress to get appropriate relief for them.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. at the Federal Emergency Management Agency headquarters. In his opening remarks, he referred to Gov. Jim Hodges of South Carolina.

Statement on the Announcement of the Gates Millennium Scholarships

September 16, 1999

I applaud the leadership and foresight shown by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation today with its \$1 billion pledge to provide full college scholarships for minority students in the fields of education, math, science, and engineering. These landmark scholarships will help address important needs: the need to encourage young people to become teachers, the need to ensure that our children are well-prepared in math and science, and the need to open the doors of higher learning to all students. The Gates Millennium Scholarships remind us what vital role philanthropies can play in American life and how urgent it is for all of us to invest now in our Nation's young people.

Statement on Robert E. Rubin's Acceptance of the Chairman of the Board Position at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation

September 16, 1999

I am pleased that Bob Rubin has accepted the job as Chairman of the Board of LISC. This service is consistent with his longstanding commitment to bring economic opportunities to America's most underserved communities. His selection is not only a tremendous boost for LISC but also for those who advocate community economic development to ensure that all Americans share in our economic prosperity.

Statement on Transmitting the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer to the Senate

September 16, 1999

Today, on the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, I am transmitting to the Senate for its advice and consent an amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Preservation of the ozone layer is critical to life on Earth. The Montreal Protocol has led to a dramatic reduction in the production and use of ozone-depleting chemicals, and scientists report that the ozone layer is on its way to recovery. The amendment I transmit today builds on this progress, in part by strengthening measures to promote compliance with the Protocol. I urge the Senate to approve this amendment.

It also is critical that the United States support efforts by developing countries to phase out their use of ozone-depleting chemicals. Regrettably, appropriations measures now before Congress would deny funds I have requested for the Montreal Protocol Fund, which has a long record of success in these efforts. I call on Congress to approve the funds needed to help preserve the Earth's protective ozone layer.